

# Effective Practice Model for County FCFC

## Core Function: Engaging and Empowering Families

### State Statute

Family Representatives mandated to be on FCFCs

Financial stipends or reimbursements may be provided to family representatives as determined by council.

Broad representation of family input.

Families are notified and invited to all service coordination meetings.

Families can initiate a SC Plan meeting and invite an advocate or support person.

ORC 121.37(B)(1)(a); (B)(2)(c); (B)(5)(b)(i); (C)(2); (C)(3); 121.374; (B)(5)(a)(ii)

### Cross-System Principles

- Family engagement
- Family empowerment
- Parent advocacy
- Family voice in decision making
- Families as equal partners
- Equipped and prepared family partners
- Valued roles and responsibilities of families
- Family strengths valued & supported
- Youth engagement
- Cultural competency

### Effective Practice Strategies

- Demonstrate the value of family engagement & empowerment
- Planned & strategic recruitment efforts for family reps
- Increase number of family representatives on FCFC
- Family Rep serves on Executive Committee
- Establish a Parent Advisory Committee
- Involve youth on committees or seek out input
- Develop a Youth Advisory Committee
- Families included on all FCFC committees
- Families help to define roles and responsibilities
- Broad family input is sought through committees, surveys, focus groups, etc.
- Member agencies engage families in individual systems
- Stipends, travel reimbursement and/or child care provided to family reps.
- Ongoing training, networking, education & orientation provided to family reps.
- New family representatives are assigned a FCFC member mentor
- Develop an advocacy system for families
- All agencies have advocates for families
- Families determine date and time of SC meetings
- SC meetings are family driven
- Families share their story

### Outcomes

- FCFC are well informed of families' needs and desires
- Policies, programs, services, and funding decisions are informed through family voice.
- Families are active, engaged and valued members on FCFC
- Increased support and stronger network for families engaged and/or advocating
- Individual families are active in the planning of services for their children.
- Increased youth voice in policies, programs, services and funding decision.

- Local Level Challenges & Barriers:**
- Lack of resources and possibly commitment to recruit active family representatives as members to FCFC.
  - Lack of resources and support to properly train and assist families as members of FCFC.
  - FCFC members not understanding the role of families on local FCFC, therefore, not involving families in key decisions.
  - Lack of local and regional family networks.
  - Lack of available local parent advocates for service coordination.